

Ellie's Social Studies / History Corner: The Second World War

Step back in time with Ellie! Explore the history that shaped our world today.

- The Second World War began in 1939 and involved two main sides: the Allies, which included Britain and France, and the Axis powers.
- Food was in short supply, so the government introduced rationing. Families were given ration books to exchange for items like sugar, butter, and meat.
- Many families built Anderson shelters in their gardens or used Morrison shelters indoors to protect themselves during air raids.
- The 'Home Front' describes the work done by civilians in Britain to support the war effort, such as growing vegetables in 'Dig for Victory' gardens.
- Women played a massive role in the war, taking on jobs in factories, on farms, and as mechanics to keep the country running.
- The war ended in Europe on VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) in May 1945, when people celebrated with street parties and music.

Did you know? Did you know? During the war, many children were sent away from big cities to the countryside to stay safe. They carried their belongings in small suitcases and often wore a cardboard box on a string around their neck, which held their gas mask!

Key vocabulary: Evacuation · Rationing · Home Front · Air Raid Shelter · Allies · Axis